

Governor's Visit to Joint Operations Center Monday, April 10, 2006



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the Department of Water Resources Flood Operations Center on Monday. The tour started with a briefing from DWR Deputy Director Les Harder, who said that “one of the top-five weather seasons on record” has put California on the precipice of disaster.

“All of our reservoirs are full and we are not able to contain all the water,” Harder told the governor, who was accompanied on the tour by state Senators Mike Machado (D-Linden) and Jeff Denham (R-Merced), as well as Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, Food and Agriculture Secretary A.J. Kawamura, DWR Director Lester Snow and Officer of Emergency Services Director Henry Renteria.

After the briefing, Schwarzenegger dropped into the agency's darkened California-Nevada River Forecasting Center where infrared satellite depictions of incoming storms showed a system settling off the coast north of San Francisco, with at least one other gathering behind it.

“The river and levee system is being taxed beyond its designed capacity.”

*- Les Harder,
Deputy Director*



From the forecasting room, Schwarzenegger made a brief stop in a control room, where DWR workers teamed with officials from other state and federal agencies to answer telephone calls from all over the state to compile an up-to-the-minute rundown on the most flood-threatened areas. Schwarzenegger then made his way to the DWR's Flood Operations Center, where he made a brief statement and answered four questions from reporters.



(Taken from pool report from Sacramento Bee reporter Andy Furillo. Photos by DWR photographer Dale Kolke)